THEATRES, ETC.

ALDWYCH. (Tem. 6404.) 8.30. Wed., Sat., 2.30. HOUSEMASTER, by Ian Hay. (440 Perfs.)
AMBASSADORS (Tem. 1171). YES AND NO. Evenings, 8.30. Matinees, Tues. & Fri., 2.30.
APOLLO (Ger. 2665). 8.30. Mons., Sats., 2.30. PEOPLE AT SEA, by J. B. PRIESTLEY.
CAMBRIDGE Tem. 6056. 8.30. Thu., Sat., 2.30. SEYMOUR HICKS in IT'S YOU I WANT.
COLISEUM. Tem. 5161. 2.30 & 8.15. Daily. ST. MORITZ. Novel Real Ice Musical Spectacle.
COMEDY. (Whi. 2578.) EVENINGS, at 8.30. Mats. Tues. Fri., 2.30. THINK OF A NUMBER, with DOUGLAS BYNG & WINIFRED SHOTTER.
COVENT GARDEN. Popular Operas. Tonight, at 8. Tales of Hoffmann. Prices 1/6 to 12/6.
CRITERION. 8.40. FRENCH WITHOUT TEARS. (2nd year.) Tues., Sat., 2.30. (Whi. 3844.)
DRURY LANE. 8.15. Mats., Wed., Sat., 2.30. IVOR NOVELLO. DOROTHY DICKSON. MARIE LOHR in CREST OF THE WAVE.
DUCHESS (Tem. 8243). 8.30. Wed. & Sat., 2.30. J. B. Priestley's TIME AND THE CONWAYS.
DUKE OF YORK'S. (Tem. 5122.) 8.30. W. & S., 2.30. Margaret Rawlings in BLACK LIMELIGHT.
EMBASSY. (Pri. 2211.) 8.15 (ex. Mon.). Tu., Sat., 2.30. CYMBELINE. By Shakespeare & Shaw.
EMPRESS HALL. Earl's Court. Tonight, 8.30. The Great Ice Show, MARINA. "Outstrips everything else in London."—E. News. 1/6 to 10/6. Special terms for parties. Box Office Ful. 1212. 4,000 Seats. Car Park.
GAIETY. (Tem. 6991.) 8.15. Tau., Sat., 2.30. LESLIE HENSON in GOING GREEK.
Fred Emney, Louise Browne, Richd. Hearne.
GARRICK. Tem. 4601. IT'S A WISE CHILD. Evgs., 8.30. Mats. Mon., Th., 2.30. A Comedy.
GLOBE. Ger. 1592. 8.30 Sharp. Weds., Sats., 2.30. St. John Ervine's "ROBERT'S WIFE."
HAYMARKET. (Whi. 9852.) Evgs., 8.30. GORDON HARKER and EDNA BEST in THE PHANTOM LIGHT. Mat., Wed., Sat., 2.30.
HIPPODROME. Ger. 5272. Evgs., 8.15. Mats., Thurs. & Sats., 2.30. BOBBY HOWES, CICELY COURTNEIDGE in "HIDE & SEEK."
HIS MAJESTY'S. NIGHTLY at 8.15. BALALAIKA. A Musical Play. Mats., Weds. and Sats., 2.30. (Whi. 6606.) "SWINGING—BREATHLESS. SPECTACULAR."—D. Mail.
HOLBORN EMPIRE. Thu. Dec. 16 & Daily, 2.15. WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS. (Hol. 8617.)
KING'S. MON. NEXT. GODFREY TEARLE in THE AMAZING DR CLITTERHOUSE.
LONDON CASINO. Lavish Revue with 5-Course Dinner or Supper & Dancing, 15/6. (Balcony 12/6), Sats 17/6. Tax 1/5. Ger. 4695.
LYCEUM. 8.15. WANTED FOR MURDER. Mat. Sat., 2.30. Tem. 3612. Last 4 Perfs. Dec. 24. Pantomime. Beauty & the Beast.
LYRIC. Ger 3687. 8.30 sharp. Wed., Thur., 2.30.
VICTORIA REGINA, by Laurence Housman.
NEW. (Tem. 3878.) Evenings at 8.15 sharp. Mats. Weds. and Sats., at 2.30. "BONNET OVER THE WINDMILL," by DODIE SMITH.
OLD VIC. Evgs., 8.0. Th., Sat., 2.30. Laurence Olivier & Judith Anderson in MACBETH.
PALACE. Commencing Wed. Next, at 8 p.m. Subsequently 8.15. 1st Mat. Wed., Dec. 15. Sydney Howard. 'OH! YOU LETTY.' Wylie Watson.
PALLADIUM. Ger. 7373. 6.15 & 9 o'c. Mats. Wed., Th., 2.30. George Black's new musical, "LONDON RHAPSODY," with NERVO & KNOX; FLANAGAN & ALLEN; NAUGHTON & GOLD; 3 Wiere Bros. (comedy that is different); Cardini (Prince of Conjurers); Ganjou Bros. and Juanita (adagio dancing); Gipsy Boys' Band (First time in England). "This is George Black's finest production: An ideal blend of beauty & humour."—Sunday Graphic, 5/9/37.
PLAYHOUSE. Nancy Price. WHITEOAKS. 8.30. (ex. Mon.) W., Th., S., 2.30. London's Longest Run.
PRINCE'S. Com. Dec. 24. Prince Littler presents CINDERELLA, with Stanley Lupino. Tem. 6590.
QUEEN'S. Ger. 4517. 8.30 shp. Wed., Sat., 2.30. John Gielgud in The School for Scandal.
ROYALTY. Ger. 7535. 8.30. Th., S. Bx. Dy. 2.30.
J. B. Priestley's I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
ST. JAMES'S. (Whi. 3903.) Tonight, 8.30. DIANA WYNYARD and RALPH RICHARDSON in THE SILENT KNIGHT. Thurs., Sat., 2.30.
ST. MARTIN'S. Evgs., 8.30. Mats., Tues & Fri., 2.30 p.m. FLORA ROBSON in "AUTUMN."
SADLERS' WELLS, Rosebery-av., E.C. Ter. 1672. TONIGHT at 7.45, AIDA. 6d. to 7/6.
SAVILLE. (Tem. 4011.) 8.30. Wed., Sat., 2.30. An Unusical Musical. "IT'S IN THE BAG!" Very funny humour in the hands of very funny comedians. Go and see it.—S. Referee.
SAVOY. 8.30. Sat., 2.30. HABIMA PLAYERS. THE WANDERING JEW & SHORT FRIDAY.
SHAFTESBURY. THANK YOU, MR. PEPYS. EDMUND GWENN & BARRY K. BARNES. Evgs., 8.30. Wed. & Sat., 2.30. (Ger. 6666.)
STRAND. Evgs., 8.30. A SPOT OF BOTHER. Robertson Hare, Alfred Drayton. Th., Sat., 2.30.
VAUDEVILLE. Evgs., 8.45. Mats. Thu., Sat., 2.45. RUTH DRAPER. Original Character Sketches.
VICTORIA PALACE. Last 2 Weeks 8.30. W. & S., 2.30. Basil Foster in BUSMAN'S HONEYMOON.
WESTMINSTER. (Vic. 0283.) 8/6, 4/6, 2/6. Evgs. (ex. Wed.), 7 p.m. Mats., Weds., 2.30. Mourning Becomes Electra, by Eugene O'Neill.
WYNDHAM'S. (Tem. 3028.) Evgs., 8.30. Mats. Wed., Sat., 2.30. "GEORGE & MARGARET"

VARIETY THEATRES.

HOLBORN EMPIRE. Hol. 5567. 6.30. 9. HENRY HALL & ORCHESTRA & Big Variety Bill.
NEW PRINCE OF WALES. 2-11.30. Gilbert Potter, Emile Boreo, PARIS ET LONDRES. 50 G.P.s.
WINDMILL. Pic.-circus. 6th Year. REVUDEVILLE. 96th Edition. (4th Week.) Con. 1.30-11.30. Last perf. starts 9.30 nightly. A Vivian Van Damm Production.

CIRCUSES.

OLYMPIA. BERTRAM MILLS' CIRCUS. Opens Dec. 22. Dly., 2.30, 7.30. 3 Shows Boxing Day and Dec. 28 and Every Sat., 2 o'c, 5.15, 8.30. BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN. Shep. Bush 1240.

CINEMA THEATRES.

ACADEMY, Ox.-st. Ger. 2981. "SQUADRONE BIANCO" (U) & "LAST ADVENTURERS" (U).
BERKELEY, Berkeley St. May 6300. 2 6-6 6. Year's Most Brilliant Will "MONICA & MARTIN" (Verspricht mir Nichts) (A) 2, 3.15, 4.45, 7.20, 10o'c. "Spanish Earth" (A), 5.45, 6.20 9 o'c.
CARLTON. Last Weeks! Paul Muni "The Life of Emile Zola" (U). Runs 2 hours. See it from the Stars. At 12 o'c, 3.15, 6.45, 9.10. Matinees 1/6 to 5/-. Evenings 2/6 to 8/6. Whi. 5711.
COURT, Sloane-sq. Charles Laughton in REMBRANDT (A) & TWO'S COMPANY (U).
CURZON, Curzon-st. Gro. 4100. Maxim Gorki's UNDERWORLD (A). From 2.45. Last Hse. 9.30.
EMPIRE, Leic-sq. (Ger. 1254.) EDWARD G ROBINSON in "THE LAST GANGSTER" (A). Showing 10.50; 1.0; 3.20; 5.40; 8.0; 10.25; 5,000 sts. at 1/6 from 10 to 1 p.m. Sats 10-12.
GAUMONT, Haymarket. DEAD END (a) with Sylvia Sidney, Joel McCrea; 1.10, 3.55, 6.40, 9.25. A Bride For Henry (a). News, etc.
LEICESTER SQ. TH. (Whi. 5252.) JACK BUCHANAN in "THE SKY'S THE LIMIT" (U), with Mara Lossett. 12.0, 2.15, 4.30, 6.45, 9.0.
LONDON PAVILION. (GER. 2982.) Walter Wanger's "52ND STREET." (A). Showing at 10.50, 1.0, 3.20, 5.30, 7.50, 10.0.
MARBLE ARCH PAV., Red. pr. 12-1.30. Janet Gaynor, Fredric March in a STAR IS BORN (a). 12.50, 3.55, 6.20, 9.5. Musical Comedy (u), etc.
METROPOLE. Vic. 4675. Constance Bennett, Topper (A). The Man Who Made Diamonds (A).
NEW GALLERY, Regent St. John Loder, Anna Lee in NON-STOP NEW YORK (a); 1.30, 4.15, 7, 9.50. Wild & Woolly (u), Crtn. (u), etc.
ODEON, Leic-sq. (Whi. 6111.) RONALD COLMAN in The Prisoner of Zenda, with Madeleine Carroll, Douglas Fairbanks, jr. (U). Showing at 10.15, 12.30, 2.45, 5.0, 7.15, 9.30. Tomorrow Walter Wanger's "VOGUES of 1938."
PLAZA (From 10.15). 6 More Days! MARLENE DIETRICH in "ANGEL," with HERBERT MARSHALL, MELVYN DOUGLAS (A), at 10.30, 12.40, 3.55, 6.50, 9.55. 1/6 to 5/-. Whi. 8944.
POLYTECHNIC. "VICTORIA THE GREAT" (U), at 1.5, 4.0, 6.55, 9.5. Also "SAFARI" (U). Cont. from 1 p.m. Last Perf. 8.50.
REGAL, Marble Arch. Padd. 8011. Comm. 12.55. Last Day, Marion Davies, Ever Since Eve (U), 12.55, 3.45, 6.45, 9.40). White Bondage (U).
RIALTO, Cov.-st. Cont. 1-11. "THE PRICE OF IGNORANCE." No Persons under 18 (L.C.C.).
STOLL, Kingsway. Another Great Show!! William Powell and Luise Rainer in "THE EMPEROR'S CANDLESTICKS" (U). Miriam Hopkins and Joel McCrea in "WOMAN CHASES MAN" (U), 1.45 t 1.30 p.m. 3d. to 1/6. Later 6d. to 3/9.
STUDIO ONE, Oxford-circus. Ger. 3500. At 1.0, 3.50, 6.45, 9.55. Last 2 days. "G'SCHICHTEN a.d. WIENERWALD." (Tales from Vienna Woods) (U). "EDGE OF THE WORLD" (A).
TIVOLI, 1,000 sts. 1/6 before 1. Leslie Howard, Joan Blondell in STAND-IN (a); 1.15, 4, 6.45, 9.30. Trapped By G-Men (a); News, &c.
TUSSAUD S. "WOMAN CHASES MAN" (U), "NIGHT OF MYSTERY" (A). (Cont. 1.15-11).

ENTERTAINMENTS.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S, Baker-st. Station. Div. Sun. 10-10. Portrait Model: Miss Jean Batten.
SCENIC FILMS showing daily 12 noon to 2 p.m., admission free, at South Africa House, Trafalgar Sq., London (Whitehall 4488.) Also before buying your Xmas fare do not fail to visit the Exhibition and demonstration of South African Products. Tasting samples available.

Daily Express

FLEET-STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.
Telephones Central 8000—Private Exchange.
DECEMBER 2, 1937.

"Give light in darkness, and peace in trouble."

Opinion

Speaking From The Pole

DO you want to see men at the top and at the bottom, at the height of grandeur and the depths of folly?

From the North Pole comes a grand story of human imagination and courage and ambition to seek knowledge in the far places of the earth.

Daily Express radio station picks up the story of the Soviet expedition on the drifting ice at the Pole. Wonderful are the adventures of those Russians who perhaps will speak their last words to the world over the radio hundreds of miles beyond the ice.

One of them is a candidate in the new Russian elections—one of the biggest frauds and farces ever perpetrated upon a people.

Hongkong Is British

A MESSAGE from China says that the Japanese have landed 50,000 troops seventy miles away from Hongkong. Chinese sources say the invaders are only 300 strong, and the lower figure is the likelier.

Hongkong is British, a Crown Colony, an integral part of the British Empire. Hongkong is a very different affair from the Shanghai International Concession or even from a mandated territory.

Hongkong comes in the same category as Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, or Ceylon. Japan will not challenge it: it would be held with every man and gun the British Empire could muster.

Slow Down

MR. BURGIN, Transport Minister, slows down the traffic on the roads built especially for fast traffic. On three of the arterial roads leading out of London he imposes a thirty miles an hour speed limit, so it's going to take longer than ever to get out of Town. The roads muddle gets worse. There is a bridge on the Reigate road that they have been building for a couple of years.

Black Gold

MEANTIME along comes Mr. Raymond Foss Bacon, of U.S.A., telling us of a new fuel giving 33 per cent. extra speed in motor-cars. What shall we do with that on our one-horse-cab roads?

Mr. Bacon says British oil from coal is excellent quality. When American well oil rises in price, which is sure, our product will have a big sale.

A national inquiry into the present resources under our soil would be more useful than Sir Kingsley Wood's Nosey Parker Bill for digging up the family skeleton.

Nearer Home

WHAT about the Dictatorship of Things?

This is the dictatorship that towers over many an English home. Not the shadow threat of foreign Strong Men but of poverty at home, unemployment, bad shelter, leaky boots, ragged clothes, fear of Rent-day and the bailiffs and the Means Test.

Jobs for those now out of work, higher wages for those employed, decent houses, the open door to education—these are the elements of Liberty. Talk more, think more, and DO MORE about these.

Holidays With Pay

THE committee considering holidays with pay finish their job. Now a pause of two months for the preparation of the report, and we shall await that with impatience.

The Daily Express led the field in advocating paid holidays for *all* workers, and the forecast is that the committee will recommend it.

Whether the committee will recommend that paid holidays should come to those still without them by legislation or by agreement between employers and workers, the report will tell. What matters is that they WILL come.

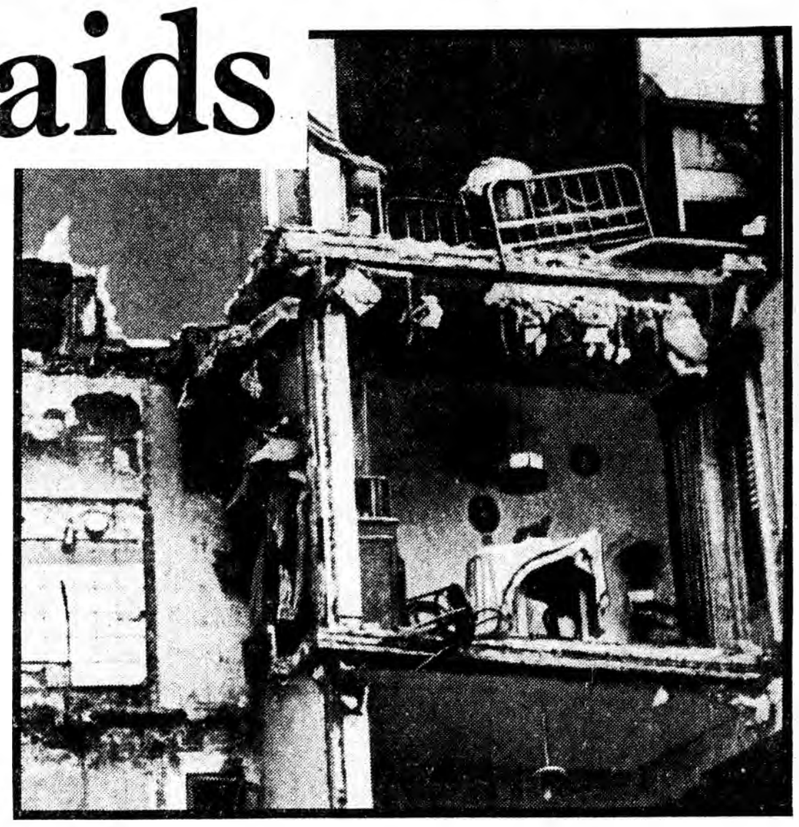
Pleasure Profits

THE marketing experts estimate that Britain's pleasure bill is £200,000,000 a year. Most of that sum is spent on football and betting. Even if two-thirds of it goes in those activities, it leaves a lot of good money for entertainment. The young man surveying the field of fortune with an eye to making one for himself might consider how to turn some of those millions his way.

There's a lot of nonsense talked about air raids

says

J. B. S. HALDANE



I KNOW of no subject except sex on which more nonsense is written than air warfare. The reason in both cases is that our emotions are strongly aroused.

Many people are terrified at the mere thought of air raids. And, personally, after seeing the children of Madrid reduced to rather dirty cats' meat by German bombs, I have nothing but contempt and hatred for those who either practise or defend this form of murder.

Nevertheless, if we are to avoid war if possible, and to defend ourselves if attacked, we have got to think about this disgusting business as unemotionally as a good doctor thinks about cancer or a good lawyer about rape.

"The main result of bombing Madrid has been to unite Government Spain in a way which seemed impossible."

AN airman can use four weapons against people on the ground, namely, high explosive bombs, incendiary bombs, gas and machine guns. He can also launch torpedoes against ships.

Airplanes can be brought down by other airplanes, by anti-aircraft guns, or by hedges of moored balloons. They can be detected by searchlights, microphones, spies, and other agencies.

Finally people on the ground can be protected by bombproof shelters, gas masks, fire engines, smoke screens, and so on.

We must now ask how we can best spend the hundreds of millions of pounds available for these purposes.

What is the proper balance between attack and defence? Our Army is given not only artillery and tanks with which to attack, but machine-guns, spades, and barbed wire to defend itself.

Are we tackling the problem of air warfare as a whole, or are we arming in a one-sided manner?

MANY people believe that a war can be won by a knock-out blow with bombing airplanes at the enemy's capital.

The experience of Spain and China has disproved this theory. Franco hoped to terrify first Madrid and then Catalonia into surrender. He has succeeded in uniting Government Spain against him in a way which seemed impossible a year ago.

The Japanese hoped that a few raids on Nanking would smash the Chinese Government. If they ever take Nanking they will have to take it with infantry.

The theory is held that a huge fleet of British bombers will so terrify other Powers that they will not dare to fight us. I believe this is a dangerous illusion. In the event of another Anglo-German war, which I hope and trust will not occur, Hitler will pray for a few good British air raids in which German women and children are killed. They would unite the German people against Britain as no amount of propaganda could do.

IF, then, our bombers can neither prevent nor win a future war we must look to our defences.

Our first line of defence is in the air. Unfortunately, we are neglecting our fighters and double-purpose planes in favour of long-distance bombers.

Our second line is anti-aircraft artillery. The defence of London is in the hands of Territorials well below strength, and at least in part armed with guns which were originally designed in 1913, and hastily adapted for anti-aircraft use during the last war.

Even if our first and second lines were adequate, which they are not, some bombers could get through, and we should have to rely on the third line—that is to say, defence for individual citizens. For even if enemy bombers are aiming at military objectives they will be far too busy dodging fighters and shells to aim accurately. So most of their victims will be civilians.

ONE of two kinds of gas will probably be used in air raids. A bomb may be dropped which instantly releases a dense cloud of gas such as phosgene, which can poison a man in a minute, unless he has a respirator, though he does not actually die for some hours or days.

Or di-chlor-ethyl sulphide, an oily liquid whose vapour is called mustard gas, may be dropped in bombs or released in a spray. The liquid remains for days, unless it is washed into the sewers with a hose or destroyed with chloride of lime.

Its vapour is not so quickly fatal as phosgene, but it can blister the skin, even if the lungs and eyes are protected by a mask. Fortunately the blisters are hardly ever fatal or even permanently disfiguring.

I do not believe that any much deadlier gases have been or will be made. Mustard gas was first made in 1886, and nothing worse had been discovered up to 1918, though Lewisite, an arsenic compound, is about as bad. And it is pretty certain that no new vapours or gases will go through a good respirator. Some smokes will do so if very strong, but although the effect is painful, it is not dangerous to life.

Fortunately gas penetrates very slowly into houses, even when the rooms are not specially gas-proofed, and the experiments recently reported by the Government should allay exaggerated fears. Unless a gas bomb actually bursts in a house there is very little danger, particularly if respirators are worn.

But two criticisms can be made. There is still no respirator for young children. And the experiments with mustard gas were made on animals, not men.

To satisfy critics they ought to be repeated on men wearing respirators. An ex-soldier skilled in anti-gas work has written to the Daily Express offering himself for such a test. He is sure that he will be quite safe. I am not so sure. I am quite willing to stay with him for twenty-four hours in a house which has had some mustard gas oil sprayed on its walls and roof. Our respirators will save our eyes and lungs. But I shall not be surprised if we get some nasty blisters.

GAS is not very effective unless it can be scattered over the whole of a big area. In March 1918 an area of twenty square miles near Cambrai was rendered dangerous with mustard gas. But this took 150,000 German shells.

To do the same to central London would probably need several hundred airplanes flying in formation and aiming accurately. I do not think this at all likely, as our chasers and anti-aircraft guns would keep them too busy. And a few gas bombs dropped at random would do little harm compared with high explosive.

If high explosive or incendiary bombs were used with gas, houses would no longer be gas-proof. On the other hand, the fires produced would draw the gas up into the air and disperse it. Hence a mixed raid would probably fail.

So I shall not be afraid of a gas raid once we have respirators for babies and every one has been shown how to use a respirator. Until then we have not got really thorough protection.

It is often said that incendiary bombs could set a whole town alight; and steps are being taken to deal with this danger, though in a rather half-hearted way.

I think that this peril, too, is exaggerated. In the first month of air raids on Madrid only high explosives were used. The main use of incendiary bombs will probably be to cause enough fires to light up a town during a night attack, so that the second relay of bombers can see where to drop their cargoes.

Unfortunately, high explosive bombs are a far greater danger, and we have no protection against them. The quarter-ton German bomb goes right down to the basement of an ordinary house before exploding, and destroys the house completely.

In a ferro-concrete building it penetrates five or six floors before bursting, but the explosion seldom brings the whole building down. Unfortunately, there are not many ferro-concrete buildings in London, and few of them are used as sleeping quarters.

For those who live in brick houses, which can be knocked down by the blast from a bomb bursting in the street, there are two alternatives: evacuation to the country and bomb-proof shelters.

I do not believe that half the people of London could be evacuated in a week, let alone a few hours. So shelters will be needed.

IN Valencia, there are shelters for most of the people who stay there at night. Some of these would not stand up to a bomb weighing a ton. Others are thirty feet deep, with several layers of concrete as well as earth above their steel roofs. What Valencia has done in war time London could do in peace.

Even if nothing is done I do not believe that London would be wiped out. But I think a big series of raids might kill fifty thousand people in a week. And if the survivors thought the Government had let them down there might well be a revolution.

I may be optimistic, and until we have shelters some desperate dictator may throw his whole air force into an attempt to wipe us off the map. A proper system of shelters would make this quite impossible, and thus greatly lessen the likelihood of war.

AT present our air defence is in three different hands. The Air Force provides fighters, the Army artillery, and the Home Office an air-raid protection service whose main duty seems to be to order people about.

I cannot believe that no one can be found better qualified than chief constables to direct this immensely important service while officers and men of the old Special Brigade, with first-hand experience of gas, are vainly applying for posts as air-raid wardens.

If I were Air Minister I should insist that the problem of air defence should be tackled as a whole, and that at least half of the huge sums being spent on it should be devoted to the one thing which gives full protection to the ordinary man, woman, and child, namely, the bomb-proof shelter.

And if my colleagues in the Cabinet told me that this was impossible, I should take them to Spain to ask the advice of Senor Negrin.

LETTERS

Explanation

IN Bedfordshire we have a plague of rats which you consider "news value."

The reason is that the smiling villages of Bedfordshire contain many old-world thatched hovels in which people exist and rats live.

We have far more vicious slums in our village than you have in any town.. In our village a family of seven people live in a two-roomed cottage.

My neighbour, a poultry farmer, has found it necessary to breed cats as a precaution against loss of stock and foodstuff. He even has to guard his ducks at their feeding trough or there would be no ducks or food.

One of my morning "chores" consists in removing dead rats from my yard brought in by my own cats. . . .

B. Y., Beds.

News

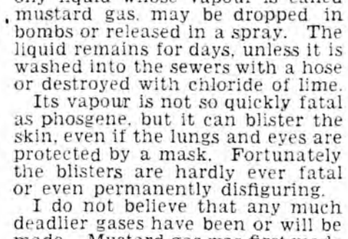
AS public relation counsellors for the Hotel Sherry-Netherland, we are pleased to inform you that Lady Drummond Hay, of London, who has been in this country since October, has come in from St. Louis, Missouri, and will stay at the Hotel Sherry-Netherland during the remainder of her visit to the States. She plans to be here for about two more weeks.

Paul Frank.
Paul Frank and Associates, Inc., 654, Madison-avenue, New York, U.S.A.

Yes?

Try It

I MADE this model of the Queen Mary with 63,560 matchsticks. It took me fourteen months to



make, and it is 41ins. long.

I copied it from a small photo out of your paper about three years ago. I hope you can print the photograph for other readers to try their skill.

J. J. Powell, Camrose-avenue, Edgware, Middlesex.

Skeletons?

WHY all this fuss because Sir Kingsley Wood wants to ask us a few questions? The birth rate is a subject that concerns us all. Surely reasonable people should co-operate, and not behave as though Sir Kingsley's questions would uncover things they are ashamed of. Unless more people than I thought are ashamed of their family life.

Celia Ramsey, Cannon-place, London, N.W.3.

Goose Chase

WHY did you tell readers of "What's On" yesterday, to go to Wood Lane to watch the England-Czecho-Slovakia Soccer match when the game took place at White Hart-lane, right the other end of London? Was it a joke, or something?

Arthur Jackson, West Norwood, London, S.E.

Sorry. "What's On" apologises. "Wood Lane. Piccadilly Railway" should have read "Wood Green, Piccadilly Railway."

Sarcastic

I PROTEST against buses being on the route from London Bridge to Fleet-street at all. They disturb the horses—shatter their nerves.

What is more noble than a string of a dozen leisurely horses—what more ignoble than a hundred shrieking omnibuses trailing behind?

And at Cannon-street and St. Paul's how beautiful the peace and calm of the herd at their nosebags! How unseemly the ravings of a thousand or more excited City men going mad in the long queue!

Ulyss Rogers, Lingfield, Surrey.

Eligibility

THE period for military service is from seventeen to fifty years of age.

If this is so why must a "man" wait four years, between the age of seventeen and twenty-one, before he can vote?

M. W. Wilkinson, Cordova-road, Grove-road, Bow, E.3.

Blood Count

I AM inclined to doubt the accuracy of your story about the woman who was given a transfusion of her own blood.

You state the human body contains only five pints of blood, whereas I believe the normal content is ten to fourteen pints. . . .

C. C. Cox, Cresswell-road, East Twickenham, Middx.

Reader Cox is confusing the weight of the blood, which is about twelve to fourteen pounds, with the volume, which is about five pints.

By the Way

by Beachcomber

FOR statistical purposes, and in answer to the loud and democratic demand of the electorate, I should like everybody to fill in this form carefully, when the official brings it. Write clearly.

1. Whose uncle was your brother?
2. Whose brother was your uncle?
3. What do you eat?
4. Why are you rude?
5. Spell turpentine.
6. Give a list of your great-grandmother's ailments.
7. What was the religion of your great-great-grandfather?
8. Why is the House of Commons exempt from drink restrictions?
9. When did you last stand on your head?
10. How often do you sleep?

The object of this demand for information is to enable the Government to proceed to still further invasions of your privacy.

Marginal Note

THE new Bill to empower officials to enter politicians' houses at will and compel them to give information as to their private lives will probably receive a cold reception in the House.

Hard Cheese, Mice!

THE National Mouse Club has just ruled that mice without whiskers must be disqualified from shows. Even if they can sing or dance the waltz, they are no good without whiskers. What a world! I suppose they will force the little chaps to wear hats next.

Another Row About A Hat

THE burning question as to whether Women Magistrates Ought to Wear Hats is closely akin to several other burning questions. Should Women Bishops Tell? Must Women Sailors Wear Boots?

What would become of the majesty of the Law if you allowed judges to dispense with those great horsehair wigs which are intended to frighten the poor? Or if barristers wore their shirts outside their waistcoats, à la Tolstoy. Decorum, decorum, please. Justice without a hat! Faugh! Why, even horses wear hats in June.

Pets' Corner

While he was throwing the buckets of water over the intruder, she was shouting insults at both of them. Her brother then broke a window in the kitchen. (News item.)

(For You and Me).—**Mittе sectari Rosa Bonheur quo locorum sera moretur.**

(For the Others).—**It's no good looking for that little prig Rosa. She's always at her painting.**

Age-Old Balkans

MORBLEU! Maisonette! The Balkans are in revolt against a tendency to take all these stories of longevity too lightly. A Jugo-Slav paper, having noted that every journalist in England seizes on Balkan centenarians and turns them into a joke, has instituted an inquiry, and, as you would imagine, millions of old men and women have been discovered. The only one I believe in is Recaja Vidosovitch, of Vele Varosh. She is 194, still drinks *rakija*, smokes a black pipe, dances the *nosta*, and is being courted by a sprightly swain of 134. She probably thinks that the girls of today are not what they were in the seventeen-fifties.

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